Reliable Tourist Statistics in respect of the places of historical and tourist importance are not available.

(d) to (f) The promotion of historical places and providing of amenities to tourists is primarily the responsibility of the State Govt. The Government has not received any proposal from the State Govt. of Karnataka to preserve Chitradurga Fort.

Licences to Rail Travellers Service Agents

2051. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards news item captioned 'Railway Licenses allotted out of turn' appearing in the Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad edition) dated February 2, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such irregularities;

(d) whether the Government propose to conduct CBI enquiry in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the "Rail Travellers' Service Agent Rules, 1985" licences for working as Rail Traveller's Service Agents are granted based on the applications received from the various applicants subject to the fulfilment of the prescribed conditions which include:

(i) in possession of the latest income tax clearance certificate;

(ii) having office and premises properly maintained with adequate convenience and amenities in the city so as to accommodate the visit of sufficient number of customers; and

(iii) not convicted in a criminal case involving moral turpitude;

South Central Railway granted licences to act as Rail Travellers' Service Agents to a few applicants based on the applications received by them through the Ministry of Railways in accordance with the above rules. During January, 1996, the South Central Railway had called for the applications for appointment of 39 additional Rail Travellers' Service Agents through press notification. A high level Committee of Senior Administrative Grade officers was constituted to examine and scrutinise the recommendation submitted by the junior Administrative Grade Officers at Divisional Level for this purpose. Selection process has been completed for appointment of 31 additional Rail Travellers Service Agents over Secunderabad, Vijayawada, Guntakal and Hubli Divisions and the name of the selected agents have been advised to the Divisions on 28.2.97. The selection process of Rail Travellers' Service Agents over Hyderabad Division has been taken up.

(c) The selection for appointment of Rail Travellers' Service Agents is being done strictly as per the extant guidelines by the South Central Railway.

(d) and (e) The factual position does not warrant a C.B.I. Enquiry in this regard.

[*Translation*]

Postal Distribution System

2052. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the time when the Government have reviewed the Postal distribution system in the country particularly in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The review of delivery of mails is an ongoing process. The mail delivery system in the country in general and rural areas in particular is constantly monitored and periodically reviewed at the field and Headquarters level.

(b) The Postal distribution system in the rural areas is generally satisfactory but occasional delays in delivery of mails do occur due to unforeseen transportation problems, natural calamities etc. which are beyond the control of the Department.

(c) The reasons for delays to mails, if any are identified by carrying out surveys at different levels and the routing and delivery system of mails streamlined wherever necessary.

Stalls at Sambhal Railway Station

2053. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of stalls at Sambhal Railway Station (Northern Railways) at present;

(b) whether it is not in accordance with the demand of passengers;

(c) if so, whether the Government are considering to allot new stalls;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) There is one tea stall at Sambhal Railway Station which is considered adquate in accordance with the passenger's requirement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.